



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES, JAPAN
APO AREA PACIFIC 96328-5068

MCVS-PAJ

8 June 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR US Forces Japan Installation Commanders

SUBJECT: Pet Import/Export Rules for SOFA Status Personnel

1. As of 6 June 2005, Japan began enforcing a new quarantine program for import and export of animals and pets. As active duty military members, members of the civilian component and their respective dependents enter Japan under the US-Japan Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), the US Forces, Japan (USFJ) negotiated with the Government of Japan over how this new pet quarantine program will affect SOFA status personnel. Because USFJ and Japan function under the US-Japan SOFA, the new pet quarantine program applied to SOFA status personnel, the requirements published by the Government of Japan, the US State Department, the USDA, and the USFJ may conflict.

2. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) quarantine inspectors and US Army Veterinary Command veterinarians will determine the length of each pet's quarantine period when the pet arrives in Japan. The quarantine periods will range up to 180 days. All quarantine guidelines, necessary import forms, and contact information may be found on the Japan District Veterinary Command website:

(<http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/index.htm>).

3. USFJ has been able to champion "Home Quarantine" as a concession for US SOFA personnel. This quarantine allows service members to maintain their pets under their custody within their assigned on-base quarters during the assessed quarantine period. Those individuals that will be most affected are SOFA personnel that are required to live in off-base housing. If a quarantine period is assessed, then these military members that live off-base will be required to pay for quarantine boarding expenses for their pets in on-base kenneling facilities or incur the significant expense of quarantining their pet at the Airport Animal Quarantine Station Facility.

4. Suffice it to say, service members that will be required to kennel their pets for up to 180 days will incur a tremendous cost. The JFTR and the JTR provide limited reimbursement for quarantine costs for service members (\$550) and DoD civilians (\$500 to \$1,000), respectively. Unfortunately, the majority of military pet owners served through out the world are in the pay grade of E-4 and below who can't afford those types of expenses. The following are suggestions that could be used to provide support and improved quality of life for your service members that are found in this situation. There may be other options that you may determine best works for your installation.

- a. Focus on improving boarding and kenneling facilities
- b. Reduce the boarding cost for those animals that are boarding for quarantine
- c. Reduce the boarding cost for owners willing to provide daily care, food, and cleaning
- d. Offer pet friendly Temporary Lodging Facilities while awaiting housing.
- e. Organize a pet foster care program where on-base families are willing to provide a foster home for the quarantined pet.
- f. Provide good sponsorship programs as soon as possible so the quarantine time will be as short as possible.

5. I understand and can foresee that over the next 6 months this will be a challenge for all the installation commands. In this time of short notice moving suspenses associated with the war on terrorism, many of our service members will be faced with making an additional hard decision associated with their pet family members. Time is of the essence and efforts made prior to their arrival will assist in reducing quarantine time and costs. Please take time to visit the JDVC website and become familiar with the import requirements.

6. Point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at DSN 263-4209.



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